

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

20.4.2005

B6-0275/2005

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Hannes Swoboda, Martine Roure, Katalin Lévai, Claude Moraes and Jan Marinus Wiersma

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the situation of the Roma in the European Union

European Parliament resolution on the situation of the Roma in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 13 of the EC Treaty, which forbids any form of discrimination,
 - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, particularly Article 81 thereof on non-discrimination,
 - having regard to Directive 2000/43/EC¹ implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (Race Equality Directive), particularly Article 13 thereof,
 - having regard to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe,
 - noting the recent publication by the European Commission of a report² drawing attention to very disturbing levels of hostility and human rights abuses against Roma, gypsies and travellers in Europe,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Roma represent the European Union's largest ethnic minority, with a population of 10 million, and whereas they are present in the majority of the Union's Member States,
- B. whereas the Roma live in conditions of extreme poverty and social exclusion,
- C. whereas the historical and present-day discrimination faced by the majority of Roma has pushed them to the margins of the societies in which they live,
- D. recalling that the Roma do not have satisfactory access to education, employment or health care,
- E. noting with regret that participation by the Roma in public life and in taking the decisions that concern them is virtually non-existent,
- F. concerned at the persistent and increasing discrimination against Roma populations throughout Europe,
- G. having regard to the difficulties faced by the Roma population in having their culture acknowledged, and to the fact that the European Union is based on the principle of

¹ OJ L 180 , 19.7.2000, p. 22.

² 'The situation of Roma in an enlarged European Union', 22 November 2004.

cultural diversity,

H. whereas the gravity of Nazi crimes in exterminating the Roma population must be recognised,

1. Strongly condemns all the forms of discrimination faced by the Roma people;
2. Calls on the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the candidate countries to consider recognising the Roma as a European and linguistic minority;
3. Calls on the European Union and the Member States to demonstrate strong solidarity and responsibility in support of the Roma;
4. Calls on the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the candidate countries to condemn all forms of intolerance, racism and xenophobia and incitement to hatred against Roma;
5. Welcomes the Commission's initiatives aimed at addressing some of the issues, including the establishment of an inter-service group to deal with horizontal Roma issues, and calls on the Commission to keep the European Parliament informed of its work;
6. Calls on the European Commission to prepare a communication on how the EU, in cooperation with the Member States, can best coordinate and promote efforts to improve the situation of the Roma, and to adopt an action plan with clear recommendations to the Member States to bring about better economic, social and political integration of the Roma;
7. Calls on the Commission to raise the Roma issue to a pan-European level, in particular with candidate countries, as the Roma live in every part of Europe;
8. Calls on the Member States and candidate countries to ensure proper access to education, employment, health services and housing in order to discourage segregation of the Roma;
9. Calls on the Member States and candidate countries to exchange best practice in order to encourage the promotion of Roma culture;
10. Considers that the lack of adequate data and statistics in the Member States and candidate countries makes it difficult to understand the scale of the discrimination against the Roma, especially Roma women, and acts as a barrier to devising effective policies and assessing the impact of policies that have already been implemented;
11. Undertakes to include a chapter on the Roma in its annual reports on the human rights situation in the European Union;
12. Welcomes the EU's active support for efforts by public authorities, NGOs and other players who are working to improve the Roma's levels of integration and Roma women's situation in the Member States and candidate countries through policies, programmes and projects to combat discrimination, poverty and social exclusion;
13. Draws, nevertheless, the attention of the Commission and the governments concerned to

the need to ensure (a) the effective application of policies implemented at Community and national level that are likely to improve Roma women's economic, social and political situation, their involvement in the decision-making process and protection of their human rights, (b) inclusion of issues concerning Roma populations in general, and equality of treatment and opportunity for Roma women in particular, in all relevant policies and programmes relating to employment policies and social inclusion, the European Social Fund, the Equal initiative, education and training programmes, the Daphne programme, and the legislation and action programme against discrimination, (c) consultation of Roma women when drawing up any programme or project likely to affect them and when adopting positive measures on their behalf;

14. Calls on the governments concerned to take measures to improve reproductive and sexual health protection of Roma women, to prevent and put an end to forced sterilisation, and to promote family planning, alternatives to early marriage, and sex education;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and national parliaments of the Member States and candidate countries.